

## LINSDALE, JEAN M.

1928 A method of showing relative frequency of occurrence of birds. *Condor*, 30: 180-184.

1932 Frequency of occurrence of birds in Yosemite Valley, California, based on records by Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Michael. *Condor*, 34: 221-226.

1936 Frequency of occurrence of summer birds in northern Michigan. *Wilson Bulletin*, 48: 158-163.

## LINSDALE, JEAN M. and THOMAS L. RODGERS

1937 Frequency of occurrence of birds in Alum Rock Park, Santa Clara County, California. *Condor*, 39: 108-111.

## COLLINSVILLE, ILLINOIS

ORNITHOLOGISTS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS. By Edgar Erskine Hume, Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, 1940: 7 x 10 in., xxv + 583 pp., frontisp. and 109 figs. \$5.00.

The publication of a volume of biographies of ornithologists is a notable event, especially when the author has done a scholarly job and the publishers a fine piece of book making.

We are all familiar with the British army officers' great tradition of natural history investigation in the remote parts of the earth but few Americans have realized the important part that has been played by United States Army officers, particularly those of the Medical Corps. Col. Hume, formerly Librarian of the U.S. Army Medical Library, is well qualified to be the biographer of the Army Medical Corps ornithologists and obviously he has worked long and faithfully. He started to write a brief paper but it soon grew into a series of articles, the first of which was actually published in the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* in 1940. Fortunately the Johns Hopkins Press then decided to publish the manuscript in this handsome and much more convenient book form.

The thirty-six biographies are arranged in alphabetical order and contain a vast amount of new information as well as much that was never before thus correlated. At the close of each chapter is a list of the principal sources. Included in most of the biographies are excerpts of the subject's published and unpublished writings. Certain of the quotations strongly confirm this reviewer's old suspicion that ornithologists are commonly very bad poets.

There is an interesting foreword by Alexander Wetmore who properly calls attention to the important part that Baird had in promoting and encouraging the work of many of these pioneer ornithologists.

Col. Hume modestly disclaims any knowledge of ornithology but his book contains much evidence to the contrary. Our confidence in the reliability of the book is partly the result of our almost complete failure to detect typographical slips or errors of any kind. The usefulness of the book is enhanced by an excellent index.—J. Van Tyne.